



(Dal)l'Umbria: la storia, le arti, i linguaggi. Percorsi, spazi e forme della ricerca

L'Umbria di carta

Intellettuali e cultura letteraria dal 1860 a oggi

CALL FOR PAPERS

PhD Conference

9th-10th June 2022

Palazzo Manzoni, Perugia

The conference is one of the appointments of the cycle of Doctoral Conferences entitled *(Dal)l'Umbria: la storia, le arti, i linguaggi. Percorsi, spazi e forme della ricerca*. This initiative springs from the scholars of the PhD Course in History, Arts and Languages in Ancient and Modern Europe and aims to offer updates on recent research concerning Umbria in the historical, archaeological, artistic and literary fields.

«Si bene prospicias mira videre potes»

Fontana Maggiore, Perugia

The conventions aim to study the figures, places, and moments that have characterized the Umbrian literary culture from the Unification of Italy to the present. This is to enhance the documentary heritage preserved in the territory - and bring out the unique characteristics of this region - placing it in the broader context of an extensive network of national and international relations.

«Si può discutere se quel che in letteratura più importa [...] soffra o no distinzioni e definizioni di spazio e di tempo. Ma discutibile non sembra il principio che, ove a tali distinzioni e definizioni per qualunque motivo si ricorra, esse debbano farsi avendo riguardo alla geografia e alla storia, alle condizioni che nello spazio e nel tempo stringono ed esaltano la vita degli uomini». In *Geografia e storia della letteratura italiana* (1951) Carlo Dionisotti invites us to turn our attention to geographical data as a prerequisite for dealing with the study of literature and cultural processes. In the wake of Dionisotti's assumption, we believe that research starting from a geographically circumscribed horizon, as well as studying purely territorial phenomena and problems, allows us to exercise reflections that, from the detail, move towards

the global dimension. Therefore, such operations allow us considering both “Umbria” and “from Umbria”.

Hence, the desired objective is that of a "mapping" of the Umbrian cultural landscape and the relations between the region and the rest of the peninsula and abroad; a mapping not intended to be definitive, given the vastness of the field of investigation, which is still little frequented, but up-and-coming, especially for literary studies.

If the regional boundaries constitute the spatial axis of reference of the conference, the period of interest extends from the watershed date of 1860 to the present day.

In 1879 Luigi Bonazzi completed his volume *History of Perugia from its origins to 1860*, a fundamental contribution to the regional historiography, which ends with the liberation of Perugia in 1860 and the expression of a Renaissance yearning towards the palingenesis of a new socio-cultural course. Despite, in fact, at the dawn of the constitution of the Kingdom of Italy, the territory of Umbria paid a bill of economic and social backwardness - which was constant until the second post-war period of the following century -, this condition of disadvantage did not preclude the development of its own intellectual and cultural dimension. The emblematic figures of two poets: Maria Alinda Bonacci Brunamonti (1841-1903) and Vittoria Aganoor Pompilj (1855-1910), embody the literary sphere of the post-Renaissance and the late-nineteenth-century cultural environment. The activities of the academies (Accademia Fildoni, Accademia degli Ottusi, Accademia Properziana among the most active) gave a boost to the local culture of the second half of the 19th century and some local authorities such as the Deputation of History Homeland for Umbria and the Historical Archives of the Umbrian Risorgimento. At the turn of the centuries, continuing a tradition of international crossings inaugurated by cultural travellers from Northern Europe, the figure of Paul Sabatier plays a fundamental role. Through his innovative studies on Saint Francis and the establishment of the International Society of Franciscan Studies, Assisi became a reference point for historians and exponents of modernism. Even during the twentieth century, Umbria continues to be the place of birth and election for several intellectuals of international importance; suffice it to think of the vigorous years of Umbrian futurism, gathered around the figure of Gerardo Dottori (1884-1977), or the reflections of Aldo Capitini (1899-1968). Along with the cradle of eminent figures of artists and scholars - in addition to the already mentioned, Luigi Salvatorelli (1886-1974), Giovanni Cecchini (1897-1983), Sandro Penna (1906-1977), Walter Binni (1913-1997), Alberto Burri (1915-1995) and Mario Capanna (1945) - artistic activities need to be mentioned. The Morlacchi Theatre in Perugia and the "Festival dei due mondi" in Spoleto are two examples. Finally, the special fortunate conditions in which the region is located, in terms of landscape and nature, have prolonged its attractiveness even in recent years. It is no coincidence that cultural experiences, such as

the Frigolandia Comic Book Archive-Museum, directed by Vincenzo Sparagna, have established their headquarters, and writers, such as Clara Sereni (1946-2018), their home.

Along this timeline, local public and private institutions, holders of the Umbrian historical memory, have enriched themselves with valuable documentary material, now available to scholars. This heritage represents both a fundamental starting point and a fruitful support for investigating the territory's literary and cultural facts and the networks of exchanges woven with the outside; of these remains trace in the epistolary preserved not only in Umbria also elsewhere. A body of interesting sources that is, at present, still largely unexplored. For example one might think of the archives and books preserved at the Biblioteca Augusta in Perugia (Pompilj Fund, Morini Fund, Guerrieri Fund, Binni Fund, Cecchini Fund, Sereni Fund, Schott Fund, Ansidei Archive, Bonacci Brunamonti Archive, Morlacchi Theatre Archives to name a few) or those collected in the various locations of the State Archives of Perugia and its other locations in Umbria (Accademia dei Fieldoni fund, Aganor Pompilj Fund, Capitini Fund, Binni Fund, Guerrieri Fund, Salvatorelli Fund, among the most renowned), or even private records funds (Dottori Archive, Capanna Fund) and other similar sites of conservation and use: the San Matteo degli Armeni Library in Perugia, where the Fondazione Aldo Capitini is hosted, the Aganor Pompilj City Library, the Historical Archive of the city of Magione, Terni City Archives, Città di Castello City library and so on.

In accordance with what is now called geo-humanities, the investigation and cultural mapping of the territory will be carried out along the following research guidelines:

- "Figures": personalities that have characterized the cultural history of Umbria, their productions and the relations they entertained with artists and extra-regional circuits;
- "Hubs": the centres of dissemination and cultural exchange, geographical locations and material places (magazines and periodicals) and the particular isotopies that characterize the spaces;
- "Turning Points": periods, dates and circumstances with their own characteristics, critical moments in national and regional scope;
- "Sources": documentary material (libraries, archives, public and private funds) and texts analysed for the first time, or, if already known, rethought in a new light.

The initiative was conceived in the hope that it would take place "in presence" at the headquarters of the Department of Humanities (Palazzo Manzoni), in P.zza Morlacchi, 11 - Perugia (Italy). In case of persistence of difficulties related to COVID-19 emergency and/or to meet the speakers' needs, a mixed or telematic mode would also be possible. Participants will promptly be notified about the solution

adopted. The conference, divided into two days of speeches and debate, includes the active participation of three keynote speakers. Publication Proceedings is provided.

Those interested in participating are invited to send their proposal to the following e-mail address by 31 December 2021: umbriadicarta@gmail.com The proposal, in PDF-format, must be complete with title and abstract (max. 3000 characters spaces included) along with a short bibliography about the author (max. 1000 characters spaces included). Each contribution shall be of a maximum of 25 minutes.

The selected proposals will be announced by February 2022.

For further updates please refer to the Facebook page of the Conference (<https://www.facebook.com/dallumbria2022>) and to the Department of Humanities of Perugia website (<https://www.lettere.unipg.it>).

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